

XXXVI.—*Description of a new Species of Tetrapturus from the Cape of Good Hope.* By JOHN E. GRAY, Esq., F.R.S., Senior Assistant in the Zoological Department of the British Museum.

[With a Plate.]

CUVIER in his History of Fish describes a species of this genus from the coast of Sicily, first noticed by M. Rafinesque, and which my friend the Prince Charles L. Bonaparte informs me is found along the whole coast of Italy; and indicates two others, one from Sumatra, suggested by a note from M. Broussonnet; and the other founded on the *Makiara* of Lacépède, which is probably only a specimen of *Tetrapturus Belone*, in which the observer had overlooked the ventral fins.

The specimen I am about to describe, which greatly resembles Lacépède's figure of the *Makiara*, was brought to this country last year by Mr. Smuts, the author of a work on the Mammalia of the Cape, and sold by him to the Trustees of the British Museum, where it forms one of the chief ornaments of the Ichthyological collection. Besides differing very considerably in the thickness and proportionate shortness of the body from the species figured by Cuvier (Hist. Poiss. viii. p. 228), it has one peculiarity which at once distinguishes it from the Mediterranean species; as I cannot suppose that it could have escaped the attention of M. Bibron, who made a dissection of the specimen, if it had existed in that species. The skin of the Cape species is strengthened with numerous elongate-lanceolate flexible bones, varying from two to three inches in length, and sometimes united together by their outward surface. The fish having been discovered during the visit of Sir John Herschel at the Cape, I have named it in honour of him,

*Tetrapturus Herschelii*. The upper beak elongate; the skin strengthened with bony spicula. Inhab. Table Bay, Cape of Good Hope. (Plate X). The specimen when stuffed is nearly 11 feet long; the beak to the gape is 2' 8"; the lower jaw to the gape, 1' 3"; the pectoral fin, 1' 9"; the ventral fin, which is imperfect, 9 inches; the crescent of the tail is 4 feet 10 inches long. The first dorsal fin has 11 soft and 29 spinous rays, and the second 7 rays.

The dorsal and anal fins are furnished with a deep fold on each side, between which they must be completely hidden when folded down.

A tail, which appears to have belonged to a larger specimen of this species, has been for many years in the collection of the British Museum.